



USAID | SRI LANKA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST, WASHINGTON, DC 20523

SUPPLEMENTAL INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

PROGRAM/ACTIVITY DATA:

Country Code-AO: 383 - 009 AO
Name: Sevalanka Foundation
Country or Region: Sri Lanka
Activity Name: Addressing the early recovery needs leading to sustainable Improved Socioeconomic Conditions of Returnees in northern Sri Lanka (also known as "Building the Resilience of Returnees" project)
References: Office of Development Partners (ODP) – PIEE dated March 30, 2009 and original SIEE approved by BEO on November 1, 2012.

Funding Begin: December 20, 2012 **Funding End:** December 31, 2014 **LOP Amount:** \$1,912,154

SIEE Prepared by: Rehana Cuttilan

Date: June 3, 2014

SIEE Amendment (Y/N): Y

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED: (Place X where applicable)

Categorical Exclusion: ☒
Positive Determination: ☐
Negative Determination
With Conditions: ☒

Deferral: ☐
Negative Determination: ☐
Exemption: ☐

Background and activity description:

The purpose of this SIEE Amendment #1 is to modify the original SIEE for the ongoing project implemented by Sevalanka Foundation, "Building the Resilience of Returnees" project. This modification is to reflect the additional scope of the activities undertaken by this project to be implemented through a cost extension of USD 391,000 for an additional 6 months, increasing the total LOP amount to \$1,912,154 and length of project until December 1, 2014.

Activity Description

The project "Building the Resilience of Returnees" implemented by Sevalanka Foundation addresses the early recovery needs of returnee IDPs in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. Sevalanka has been providing early recovery, water, sanitation, hygiene facilities and livelihood support for lagging and conflict-affected communities. The USAID/ Governance and Vulnerable Populations Office (GVP) has proposed an extension that will allow Sevalanka to continue

services provided under the current project and expand current activities with an additional time and cost extension.

The proposed extension will allow Sevalanka to continue services provided under the current project to continue and expand current activities with an additional time and cost extension. The Governance and Vulnerable Populations office intends to increase the total estimated cost by an additional \$391,000 and increase the time of the award by an additional six months, to implement following two components. 1) Under the first component Sevalanka will continue to support early recovery assistance such as shelter, water sanitation and other resettlement support for the newly resettled IDPs in Kopai, Kankesanthurai and Maruthankerni Divisional Secretariat Divisions (DS/D) in Jaffna District. In addition, Sevalanka plans to extend the present livelihood assistance component in Mannar and Jaffna to further strengthen already established farmer and fisheries societies targeted by the project and provide additional support to Mavalkalati resettlement village in Thellipalai DS/Division of Jaffna District following up on activities earlier conducted under a previous USAID/OFDA award for the last returnees from Menik Farm who were resettled in 2012.

The second component will include support to the Mission's "People to People" initiative focusing on reconciliation, mainly engaging youth in Northern and Southern provinces in Sri Lanka. Using Sevalanka's existing widespread youth network throughout the country and past youth development work with UNICEF funding, the organization will engage in supporting and strengthening youth networks, facilitating dialogue through exchange visits, providing life skills trainings and other forms of initiatives involving youth to promote reconciliation and inter-ethnic harmony. These activities will be carried out in Jaffna, Mullaitivu and Mannar Districts in the Northern Province and Galle and Matara Districts in the Southern Province.

The activities during this extension will support the achievement of the overall goal of the project; in creating a conducive environment to enable the long term IDPS of 20 years of displacement, to return to their home villages; establishing socioeconomic early recovery needs and improved quality of life; expanding opportunities to revive lost livelihoods that will lead to increased income, production and economic stability, expanding to improvement in market linkages. The approach will lead to social security, protection and empowering of women and youth that can bring social change, integration to the returned society, empowered through linkages to social elite, organization, local and government authorities; and addressing concerns of the young people to enable a stable adolescence leading to productive adulthood while North South linkages/Networks are established contributing to reconciliation efforts..

Evaluation of environmental impact potential

The additional activities implemented by the extended project are small scale in nature the relative cumulative environmental impact will also be mitigated through sound environmental risk mitigation planning prior to initiation and close monitoring throughout implementation by implementing partner staff and responsible Government of Sri Lanka agencies.

Table 1: Summary of activities and environmental impact

Activity	Potential Environmental Impacts	Recommended Environmental Determination
1. Construction of a pipeline water facility, 5000 litre water tank, 8 water outlets and a bathing facility for women (About 5% of the additional budget of USD	Provision of small-scale drinking water supply in the form of a pipeline could result in a range of potential adverse environmental impacts, including:	<p>Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3 (a)(2)(iii), a ND is recommended subject to the following conditions:</p> <p>1. Exclusion from protected/sensitive areas. Water supply facilities will not be constructed within protected areas or environmentally sensitive areas.</p> <p>2. Good-practice design and operation standards</p>

<p>391,00 will be allocated for this activity)</p> <p>The ground water source is a dug well-constructed nearly 30-40 years ago and serves the entire community in the Mavaikallady village. It is an open dug well known as a perennial source where water is retained through the year. The area receives seasonal rains during October to January.</p>	<p>During construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improper siting of facilities (e.g. within wetlands, protected areas, or other sensitive habitats, etc.) may damages or destroy natural ecosystems. • Construction may cause minor disruption of the land around the supply system. • Safety issues during construction may be a problem (i.e., collapse of wells in too sandy soil horizons, accumulation of methane gas causing Firedamp explosion) <p>During Operation/Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water resource depletion arising from the operation of increased number of facilities (wells, boreholes, RWH technologies) may contribute to the depletion of water resources (surface and groundwater), if the demand for water and the extraction exceed sustainable yields. <p>Water resource depletion can in turn lead to degradation of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem structures & functions and loss of biodiversity; loss of livelihoods/economic productivity, and adverse impacts on human health. These impacts may occur in the future or in down-gradient locations. Land subsidence may result from overdraw of shallow groundwater.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saline intrusion. In Sri Lanka, wells or boreholes located too close to the ocean or which tap shallow ground water lying on top of salty groundwater may lead to salt water intrusion. The same can happen in the other countries when drawing groundwater from or too close to salty or heavily charged groundwater resources. • Supply of contaminated water. If poorly sited or poorly designed/protected, water supply systems can provide biologically or chemically contaminated water, with consequent adverse effects on the health of beneficiaries and livestock. <p>Siting problems can arise from drawing ground or surface water too close to sources of pollution such as latrines, pesticide stores, cemeteries, irrigated fields, etc.</p>	<p>must be implemented for new construction and rehabilitation works, generally consistent with USAID's <i>Guidelines on water and sanitation</i> http://www.usaidgems.org/Sectors/watsan.htm. In accordance with Agency Construction Policy, designs should be vetted by USAID engineers;</p> <p>IP will train the community water management and water conservation water protection, system maintenance.</p> <p>The project also plans to implement the following minimum standards, to be included in the EMMR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper training and education of laborers and beneficiary communities, prior to the usage of any well • Construction supervision by a competent water and sanitation specialist by Sewalanka, with testing by Sewalanka and DoPH officials • Confirmation that fresh water exists close to the surface and picks up recharge. • Well design is currently in use as the primary means of water provision in this part of Jaffna • Well will be cased with cement rings in order to prevent erosion, collapse and contamination <p>3. Water quality assurance plan. For water supply activities, Implementing Partners (IPs) will develop and implement a Water Quality Assurance Plan that will ensure that all new and rehabilitated USAID-funded water supplies provide safe drinking water, defined as meeting local and WHO water quality standards.</p> <p>This Plan must be approved by the REA prior to initiation of these activities.</p> <p>The plan must include and assign responsibility to the IP for initial water quality testing. When feasible, the program must also set in place capacities and responsibilities to provide reasonable assurance that ongoing water quality monitoring occurs.</p> <p>The standards for initial and ongoing testing—including types of contaminants for which testing should be conducted, testing methods, testing frequency, and issues such as public access to results—should follow any applicable USAID guidance, as well as local laws, regulations and policies.</p> <p>The plan must include a response protocol in the event that the water does not meet water quality standards.</p> <p>The plan must include testing for Arsenic per Guidance Cable State 98 108651.</p> <p>4. Water quantity assurance and management. Facilities will be carefully sited to maximize sustainable yields and will be tested to ensure that these yields are not exceeded. Appropriate design consideration will be</p>
--	---	---

	<p>Groundwater may have hazardous concentrations of arsenic, iron, fluorine, etc. This can only be verified by pre-testing the water source.</p> <p>Flooding can contaminate water points, as can the failure to exclude livestock from water points intended for human use. Hand-dug wells can become contaminated by the use of contaminated containers to draw water.</p> <p>Water can also become contaminated during transport from the water point to home, or during home storage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of standing water. Lack of appropriate drainage systems may cause the creation of stagnant (standing) water near water points that could create breeding opportunities for mosquitoes and other disease vectors. <p>Loss of water supply due to climate change. Failure to design and/or locate systems in consideration of expected climatic change may result in loss of water supply to target beneficiaries. This can occur, for example, if (i) wells are tapping shallow groundwater that is fluctuating severely or dropping; or (ii) boreholes tap dropping water tables; or (iii) if surface waters dry up or drop below the levels of intakes</p>	<p>given to changes in future availability resulting from climate change. (E.g. projected drops in water tables might suggest sinking wells or boreholes deeper, or constructing a surface water intake within a sandy riverbed/streambed. .</p>
<p>2. Construction of the auction hall and grinding mill</p> <p>Nagakovil Sevalanka will build an auction hall to auction fish using local labour and materials. 3% from the additional budget of USD 391,000 has been allocated for this activity. (See Annex 1 for building design)</p> <p>Mannar A grinding mill will be built so that the farmers can husk the paddy and mill it for value addition products. This agriculture infrastructure will support an integrated approach to encourage the Madu farmer to look into alternatives for increased agriculture income.</p>	<p>Potential environmental impacts from this activity during the construction phase are expected to be minimal, however, the following impacts could potentially occur: Construction: Minor disruption of surrounding terrestrial areas during the construction process at individual sites.</p> <p>Damage to or contamination of ecosystems: If building materials (solid waste) are dumped into rivers or streams after the shelters reach the end of their useful life, it could alter aquatic habitats and harm native plants.</p> <p>It is unlikely that there will be much waste from these constructions. Solid waste is never dumped into water.</p> <p>Potential environmental impacts could occur during the operational phase: Run off from auction floors: Market, auction and processing floors are generally hosed down using copious amounts of water; the water may contain both solids (fish scales, discards, entrails,</p>	<p>Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3 (a)(2)(iii), a ND is recommended subject to the following conditions:</p> <p>1, Design/Construction. Structures will follow a commonly used design authorized by the Government of Sri Lanka. Buildings will be constructed using locally available materials. In accordance with Agency Construction Policy, designs should be vetted by USAID engineers; in addition to stipulating proper siting, which should be reflected in an EDF/RR and EMMP, consistent with Environmental Guidelines for Small-Scale Activities at: http://www.usaidgems.org/</p> <p>The IP shall provide documented evidence/photos of construction site: prior, during and after completion of construction, compliance with standard industry best and use of PPE.</p> <p>The auction hall is an open building with four posts, a platform and a roof and will be built on the sandy ground.</p> <p>The grinding mill will have permanent walls built with bricks and there will be windows. This will provide critical air circulation and will provide protection from hot weather. Sand and timber, which are critical for the</p>

<p>6% from the additional budget of USD 391,00 has been allocated for this activity</p> <p>Both construction designs have been authorized by the Government of Sri Lanka.</p>	<p>etc.) and liquids (blood and fish oils). This runoff is not a health hazard in itself but rather a nuisance; it may indirectly attract pests to the food handling area</p> <p>Waste: Accumulation of waste that is not properly disposed of during the operation of the auction hall.</p>	<p>structure, will be purchased through licensed sellers.</p> <p>Technical supervision will be provided by the IP during construction. No hazardous materials will be used in construction. The technical officers and masons are well educated on safety practices in construction sites. Precautionary measures such as danger sign boards to the public, use of personal protective equipment on construction sites and ensuring that the workers are handling the equipment with all safety measures will be adopted.</p> <p>2. Training. IP will provide appropriate training to beneficiaries regarding appropriate practices for re-use and/or disposal of construction materials and the use and maintenance of the auction hall and grinding mill.</p> <p>3. Management of waste and run-off during the operation of the buildings. The IP will ensure that the necessary local authorities are in place to dispose the waste and that guidelines and recommendations to deal with market run off are addressed.</p> <p>For the auction hall, the whole fish will be auctioned with no chances of cutting the fish. This minimizes the fish waste. The waste water will be drained to the drainage pit and the waste that may result will be collected in barrels. The hall will be under the control of local government body (Pradesiya Saba), and the waste will be collected regularly by the local government waste collection system which is in practice in all areas of the country and thereafter is systematically disposed.</p>
<p>4. Livelihood assistance for small-scale, self-employment for women Sevalanka will train and support 34 women in camphor production, leather and palm coir production (About 5% of the additional budget of USD 391,000 will be allocated for this activity)</p>	<p>This activity is intended to facilitate and promote adoption of small-scale livelihood alternatives by promoting traditional, natural resource-based livelihood activities.</p> <p>However, in some cases livelihood and/or market development can benefit non-sustainable as well as sustainable harvesters and/or processors. Small-scale production techniques can become intensive (plantation cultivation), with attendant land clearing, pesticide use, etc. In this case, impacts could become adverse rather than beneficial.</p>	<p>Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3 (a)(2)(iii), a ND is recommended subject to the following conditions:</p> <p>1. Sustainable scale. All activities will be based on and conform to sustainable levels of use of natural resources, and the IP must be able to document its planning assumptions. Appropriate consideration must be given to changes in future water availability resulting from climate change.</p> <p>2. Good practices. Training and technical assistance will emphasize and fully integrate environmentally sound practices substantially consistent with Chapter 4.2 (Food Processing) of the USAID Environmental Guidelines http://www.usaidgems.org/mse/foodProcessing.htm</p>
<p>5. Improving Social Cohesion. Sevalanka will support the Mission's "People to people" initiative (P2P) through strengthening youth networks, facilitating dialogue through exchange visits, providing life skills trainings and other forms of initiatives involving youth to promote reconciliation and inter-ethnic harmony. 40% of</p>	<p>This activity involves technical assistance, capacity building and training programs for youth and has no foreseeable adverse impacts on the natural environment. This activity conforms to a class of interventions that may be eligible for categorical exclusion.</p>	<p>Categorical Exclusion per 22 CFR 216(c)(2)(i) -- education, technical assistance or training programs</p>

the total budget is allocated for the P2P component			
---	--	--	--

Recommended determinations and mitigation actions

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3 (a)(2)(iii), a **Negative Determination with Conditions** is recommended for activities 1,2,3, 4, Table 1, because they have a potential for negative impact on the environment as summarized above.

A **Categorical Exclusion** is recommended for Activity 5 presented in Table 1 because no environmental impacts are expected as a result of this activity. This activity falls under the following citations from Title 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations Regulation 216 (22 CFR 216), subparagraph 2 (c) (2) as classes of activities that do not require an initial environmental examination:

- (i) Activities involving education, training, technical assistance or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities)

Implementation and Monitoring Requirements

All the implementation and monitoring requirements established in the original SIEE remain in force throughout the extended LOP.

Limitations and Revisions of the SIEE

No pesticides will be used, procurement and/or use of asbestos, lead, mercury and arsenic containing materials, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and/or any other toxic/hazardous materials prohibited by U.S. EPA and/or under relevant international environmental conventions and agreements;

All other limitations and the stipulation for revisions established in the original SIEE remain in force throughout the extended LOP.

APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS:

CLEARANCE:

Acting GVP Office Director


Ivan Rasiah

06/09/2014
Date

Mission Environmental Officer

Cleared via email
Nihani Riza

06/09/2014
Date

Regional Environmental Advisor/Asia & OAPA

Cleared via email
Andrei Barannik

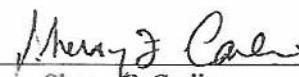
06/06/2014
Date

Regional Legal Advisor

Cleared via email
Paul Kim

06/09/2014
Date

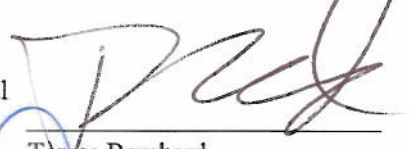
Mission Director

X 
Sherry F. Carlin

6/9/2014
Date

APPROVAL:

Bureau Environmental
Officer


Teresa Bernhard

Date: 7/28/14

Approved: ☒

Disapproved: ☐

CCed:


Will Gibson

Mary Melnyk BEO/Asia
Project file
MEO tracking
OAA

APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS:

CLEARANCE:

Acting GVP Office Director

Ivan Rasiah

Date

Mission Environmental Officer

Cleared via email
Nihani Riza

06/09/2014

Date

Regional Environmental Advisor/Asia & OAPA

Cleared via email
Andrei Barannik

06/06/2014

Date

Regional Legal Advisor

Cleared via email
Paul Kim

06/09/2014

Date

Mission Director

Sherry F. Carlin

Date

APPROVAL:

Bureau Environmental
Officer

Teresa Bernhard

Date: _____

Approved: ☐

Disapproved: ☐

CCed:

Mary Melnyk BEO/Asia,
Project file
MEO tracking
OAA